

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 17 and ending on page 5, line 11 with the following:

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

As shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 4, the invention ~~according to Claim 1~~ is an improvement of a dismounting device for a heavy load hoisting sling, comprising:

a base 16 including at its upper end a crane engagement portion 27 to be engaged with a hook 26a of a crane 26 or with a hook block;

a lever holder 17 pivotally connected at a substantial center thereof to a first shaft 11 affixed to the base 16 below the crane engagement portion 27;

a link lever 18 including a proximal end swingably mounted on a second shaft 12 affixed to the base 16 below the first shaft 11, and a distal end to be engaged with a distal end of the lever holder 17, in which one end of a sling 13 including the other end to be hung on the hook of the crane or on the base 16 so as to be engageable with a heavy load 14, is releasably hung on the link lever 18; and

releasing means 19 for lowering a proximal end of the lever holder 17 to raise the distal end of the lever holder 17, thereby releasing the distal end of the link lever 18 from the distal end of the lever holder 17.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 12 and ending on page 6, line 15 with the following:

In the dismounting device for a heavy load hoisting sling ~~recited in Claim 1~~, the hook 26a of the crane 26 is firstly engaged with the crane engagement portion 27, and the one end of the sling 13 is hung on the hook of the crane or on the base 16. Next, the base 16 is placed just above the heavy load 14, the sling 13 is engaged with the heavy load 14 and the other end of the sling 13 is hung on the link lever 18, and then the distal end of the link lever is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17. When the heavy load 14 is hoisted by the crane 26, a relatively larger force by rotation moment based on a weight of the heavy load 14 is outwardly applied to the distal end of the link lever 18, i.e., applied in a direction to press the distal end of the link lever 18 against the distal end of the lever holder 17, so that a frictional force between the distal end of the link lever 18 and the distal end of the lever holder 17 is increased, thereby maintaining a state where the distal end of the link lever is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder. Next, when the heavy load 14 is downed at a predetermined place in a state where the slider 31 of the releasing means 19 is lowered and the engagement plate 31b is engaged with the proximal end of the lever holder 17 to thereby cause the self-weight of the slider 31 to act thereon, the sling 13 is relaxed and the force acted on the distal end of the link lever 18 is removed, so that the distal end of the link lever 18 can be readily released from the distal end of the lever holder 17 by virtue of the self-weight of the slider 31. As the distal end of the link lever is released from the distal end of the lever holder, the distal end of the link lever 18 is downwardly turned. When the base 16 is lifted by the crane 26 in this state, the other end of the sling 13 is released from the link lever 18 and then the sling 13 is released from the heavy load 14 so that the sling 13 is lifted together with the base 16.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16 and ending on page 7, line 19 with the following:

As shown in FIG. 7 and FIG. 8, the invention of ~~Claim 2 according to Claim 1~~ is characterized in

that the link lever 18 includes: a proximal end portion 18a swingably mounted on the second shaft 12; a curved portion 18b provided continuously to the proximal end portion 18a and curved at a predetermined curvature radius; a distal end portion 18c engageable with the distal end of the lever holder 17; and a beam portion 18d connecting the curved portion 18b and the distal end portion 18c with each other; and

that, when assuming:

a limit point of action P which is a position where the other end of the sling 13 contacts with the link lever 18, when the link lever 18 is turned about the second shaft 12 so that the beam portion 18d is brought from an upright posture to a horizontal posture, by releasing the link lever 18 from the lever holder 17, from a state where the other end of the sling 13 engaged with the heavy load 14 is hung on the link lever 18 and the distal end of the link lever 18 is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17;

an angle α which is defined between: a straight line L connecting a central point of the second shaft 12 to the limit point of action P; and an inside line of the beam portion 18d; and

an angle β which is defined between: a straight line M connecting a central point of the second shaft 12 to the center of gravity G of the link lever 18; and an inside line of the beam portion 18d;

one or each of the angle α and angle β is configured to be an obtuse angle.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 20 and ending on page 9, line 15 with the following:

As shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 4, the invention of ~~Claim 3 according to Claim 1~~ is characterized in

that the releasing means 19 comprises, in addition to the slider 31,:

a slider 31 vertically movably provided on the base 16 to engage with the proximal end of the lever holder 17, thereby urging the proximal end of the lever holder 17 in a direction to push down the same;

locking means 32 provided on the base 16 and engaged with the slider 31 to thereby temporarily lock the slider 31 in a raised state; and

unlocking means 33 for unlocking the temporarily locked slider 31;

that when the weight of the heavy load 14 is applied to the link lever 18 through the sling 13, there is maintained a state where the distal end of the link lever 18 is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17; and

that the slider 31 is configured to raise the distal end of the lever holder 17 to thereby release the distal end of the link lever 18 from the distal end of the lever holder 17 when the temporarily locked slider 31 is unlocked by the unlocking means 33 and the weight of the heavy load 14 is not applied to the link lever 18 through the sling 13.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 16 and ending on page 10, line 20 with the following:

In the dismounting device for a heavy load hoisting sling ~~recited in Claim 3~~, the hook 26a of the crane 26 is firstly engaged with the crane engagement portion 27, and the one end of the sling 13 is hung on the hook of the crane or on the base 16. In this state, as the base 16 is placed just above the heavy load 14 and the slider 31 is raised, the locking means 32 temporarily locks the slider 31 in the raised state, so that the self-weight of the slider 31 is not applied to the proximal end of the lever holder 17 thereby lowering the distal end of the lever holder 17. Next, the sling 13 is engaged with the heavy load 14, the other end of the sling is hung on the link lever 18, and the distal end of the link lever 18 is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17. In this state, when the heavy load 14 is hoisted by the crane 26, there is maintained the state where the distal end of the link lever 18 is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17 identically to Claim 1. Next, when the heavy load 14 is downed at a predetermined place, the sling 13 is relaxed and the force acted on the distal end of the link lever 18 is removed. In this state, when the locked slider 31 is unlocked by the unlocking means 33, the slider 31 is lowered and the proximal end of the lever holder 17 is pushed down by the self-weight of the slider 31, so that the distal end of the lever holder is raised and the distal end of the link lever 18 is released from the lever holder 17 to thereby downwardly turn the distal end of the link lever. Further, when the base 16 is lifted by the crane 26, the other end of the sling 13 is released from the link lever 18 and then the sling 13 is released from the heavy load 14 so that the sling 13 is lifted together with the base 16.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 21 and ending on page 11, line 20 with the following:

As shown in FIG. 1, FIG. 4, and FIG. 9, the invention of ~~Claim 4~~ according to ~~Claim 3~~ is characterized in that the base 16 includes: a first plate 21 and a second plate 22 both extending vertically; and a fixing plate 24 provided between the first plate 21 and the second plate 22, to horizontally extend or to be inclined, to thereby couple the first plate 21 to the second plate 22, the fixing plate 24 being formed with a through-hole 24a;

that the ascending/descending rod 31a of the slider 31 is loosely inserted through the through-hole 24a;

that the slider 31 includes an ascending/descending rod 31a loosely inserted through the through-hole 24a, and an engagement plate 31b which is integrally provided at an upper portion of the ascending/descending rod 31a and which extends horizontally or is inclined;

that the engagement plate 31b is configured to engage with the proximal end of the lever holder 17;

that when the weight of the heavy load 14 is applied to the link lever 18 through the sling 13, there is maintained a state where the distal end of the link lever 18 is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17; and

that the engagement plate 31b is configured to raise the distal end of the lever holder 17 by self-weights of at least the ascending/descending rod 31a and the engagement plate 31b itself to thereby release the distal end of the link lever 18 from the distal end of the lever holder 17 when the weight of the heavy load 14 is not applied to the link lever 18 through the sling 13.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 21 and ending on page 13, line 8 with the following:

In the dismounting device for a heavy load hoisting sling ~~recited in Claim 4~~, the hook 26a of the crane 26 is firstly engaged with the crane engagement portion 27, and the one end of the sling 13 is hung on the hook of the crane or on the base 16. In this state, as the base 16 is placed just above the heavy load 14 and the slider 31 is raised, the locking means 33 temporarily locks the ascending/descending rod 31a in the raised state, so that the self-weight of the slider 31 is not applied to the proximal end of the lever holder 17 thereby turning the lever holder 17 to a position where the distal end of the link lever 18 is engageable with the distal end of the lever holder 17. Next, the sling 13 is engaged with the heavy load 14, the other end of the sling is hung on the link lever 18, and the distal end of the link lever 18 is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17. In this state, when the heavy load 14 is hoisted by the crane 26, there is maintained the state where the distal end of the link lever 18 is engaged with the distal end of the lever holder 17 identically to Claim 1. At this time, the locked slider 31 is unlocked by the unlocking means 33 and the slider 31 is lowered, so that at least the self-weight of the slider 31 acts on the proximal end of the lever holder 17. However, since the frictional force between the distal end of the link lever 18 and the distal end of the lever holder 17 is much larger than the self-weight of the slider 31, the distal end of the link lever 18 is not disengaged from the distal end of the lever holder 17 even when the self-weight of the slider 31 acts on the proximal end of the lever holder 17. Next, when the heavy load 14 is downed at a predetermined place, the sling 13 is relaxed and the force acted on the distal end of the link lever 18 is removed, so that the proximal end of the lever holder 17 is pushed down

by at least the self-weight of the slider 31. Thus, the distal end of the lever holder 17 is raised and the distal end of the link lever 18 is released from the lever holder 17, so that the distal end of the link lever 18 is turned downwardly. In this state, when the base 16 is lifted by the crane 26, the other end of the sling 13 is released from the link lever 18 and then the sling 13 is released from the heavy load 14 so that the sling 13 is lifted together with the base 16.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 20 with the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a dismounting device for a heavy load hoisting sling according to a first embodiment of the present invention taken along a line A-A of

FIG. 9.